

Serial No.: 10/003,287
Atty. Docket No.: P67237US0

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 5, 2003, has been carefully reviewed and Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claim 2 has been canceled, claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended, and new claims 11-19 have been added. Claims 1 and 3-19 are pending in the application.

The Examiner objected to the abstract as being too long; Applicant has provided a replacement abstract on a separate sheet enclosed herewith.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,514,647 to Hinogami et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,613,482 to Yano et al. The Examiner objected to claims 2-5 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but stated that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, now canceled, and therefore claim 1 is in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in claim 2. Claims 3-10 are also in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein.

New claim 11 represents a broadened combination of the subject matter of original claims 1 and 2 and is in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 1 and in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter.

Serial No.: 10/003,287
Atty. Docket No.: P67237US0

New claims 12-19 correspond with claims 3-10 and are in condition for allowance as claims dependent on an allowable base claim and also for the allowable subject matter contained therein.

All outstanding matters being addressed and each of the pending claims being allowable, the application is in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By Yoon S. Ham by Sign C. Sealey
Yoon S. Ham
Reg. No. 45,307
Reg No 40,485

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-6666
Date: January 28, 2004
YSH:SCB